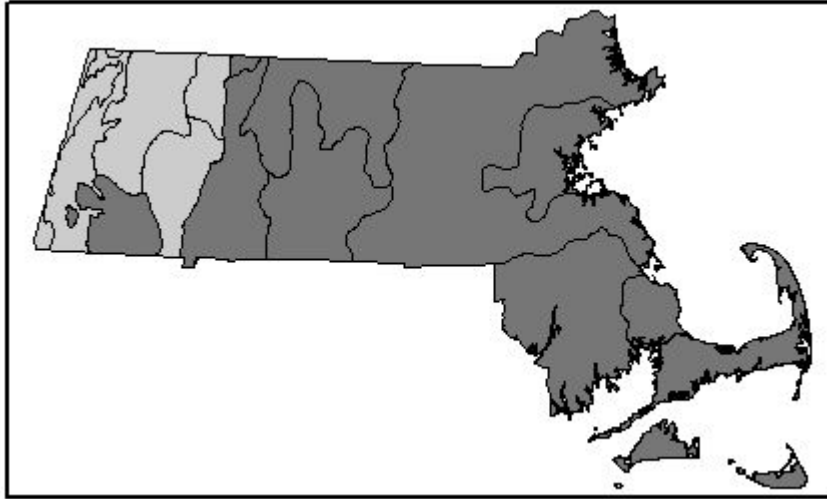


**Community Name:** SUCCESSIONAL WHITE PINE FOREST

**Community Code:** CT1A1A0000

**SRANK:** S5



**Concept:** Old field white pine, several decades since establishment. Other species co-occur with the white pine, but seldom share dominance. The forest floor is often carpeted with needles, with only a thin herbaceous layer.

**Environmental Setting:** Abandoned agricultural land, usually pasture. Sometimes selective logging maintains the pine as a dominant.

**Vegetation Description:** White pine (*Pinus strobus*) dominated forest, with scattered white oak (*Quercus alba*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and red maple (*Acer rubrum*) in the canopy. The shrub layer is variable density, from sparse to thick: Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), maple-leaved viburnum (*Viburnum acerifolium*), and often non-native species such as buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), or/and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*). A variety of blackberry vines (often forming thickets), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*) often covers the ground near openings or in formerly open disturbed areas. Low bush blueberries (*Vaccinium angustifolium* and *V. pallidum*) form patches, mixed with black huckleberry (*Gaylussacia baccata*), on sites with less disturbed soils. The herbaceous layer is variable; large patches of Canada mayflower (*Maianthemum canadensis*), and starflower (*Trientalis borealis*) with clubmosses (*Lycopodium obscurum* and related species) are particularly common on formerly plowed soil. Bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*) is often common. Partidgeberry (*Mitchella repens*), fringed polygala (*Polygala uniflora*), and pink lady slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) grow in many longer established sites.

**Associations:**

**Habitat Values for Associated Fauna:** Blackburnian warblers (*Dendroica fusca*) are probably the bird species most closely associated with dense white pine forests. Other birds of the community include Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), Yellow Warbler (*D. dominica*), Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), and Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*); as well as generalists such as the Black-capped Chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), and Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*).

**Associated Rare Plants:**

LYGODIUM PALMATUM

CLIMBING FERN

SC

**Associated Rare Animals:**

NONE KNOWN

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program, Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

<b>Examples with Public Access:</b>	Townsend State Forest, Townsend; Douglas State Forest, Douglas; Oxbow N.W.R., Harvard.		
<b>Threats:</b>	Non-native species such as buckthorn ( <i>Rhamnus frangula</i> ), Morrow's honeysuckle ( <i>Lonicera morrowii</i> ), and privet ( <i>Ligustrum obtusifolium</i> ).		
<b>Management Needs:</b>	Remove exotics from good examples.		
<b>Synonyms</b>			
<b>USNVC/TNC:</b>	Pinus strobus -- Pinus strobus/ Vaccinium spp. Forest [CEGL002444].		
<b>MA (old name):</b>	Part of: SNE Dry oak/pine forest on sandy / gravelly soils.		
<b>ME:</b>	Part of: Early successional forest community. Within: Pine - Hemlock / Spruce Forest Community AND within: Oak - Pine Forest Community.		
<b>NH:</b>	1997 - Similar to Pine part of Dry red oak - white pine / heath / bracken fern forest AND partially Included in Hemlock-beech-oak-pine forest -- Tsuga-Fagus-Quercus rubra- Pinus strobus / Hamamelis / Gaultheria - Medeola - typic hemlock - beech - oak - pine variant;1994 - Included in: Transition Hardwood - Conifer formation, part of Dry transitional oak - White Pine Forest.		
<b>VT:</b>	Part of: Mesic pine-oak forest AND included in: Pine - Oak - Heath Sandplain Forest.		
<b>NY:</b>	Part of: Appalachian Oak - pine forest, Successional northern hardwoods.		
<b>CT:</b>	Not described.		
<b>RI:</b>	Part of: Oak - Pine Forest.		
<b>Weatherbee:</b>	Part of: Dry Acidic oak/conifer Forest Community.		
<b>Author:</b>	P. Swain	<b>Date:</b>	8/19/99